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A NEW SPECIES OF *GENTIANA* FROM NORTH-WESTERN HIMALAYAS

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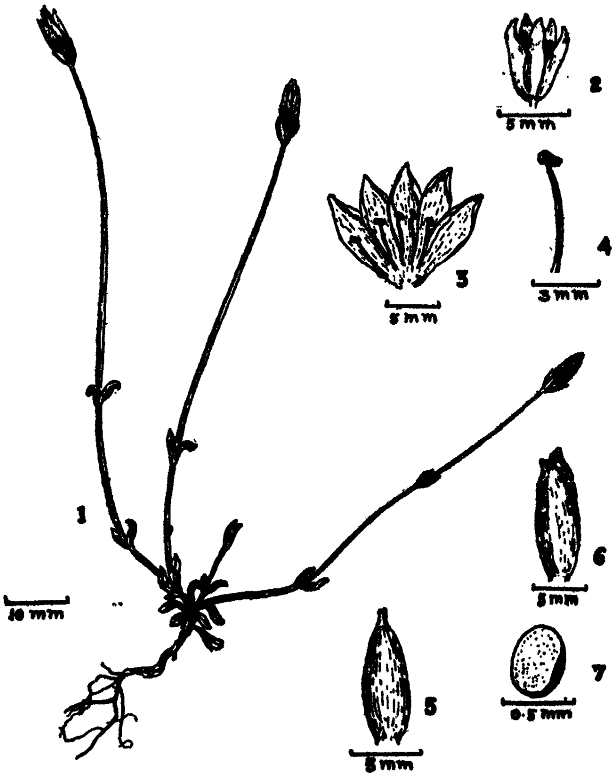
Gentiana spitiensis Nair spec. nov.

Herba annua, ramis decumbentibus vel erectis, ad 9.5 cm, gracilibus, glabris. *Folia* radicalia et nonnulla caulina, opposita, carnosa, 4-5 x 2 mm, oblanceolata, radicalia quidem angustata in petiolum brevissimum, caulina vero semper sessilia, integra, ad apicem acuta. *Flores* solitarii, terminales. *Calyx* campanulatus, persistens, 3 mm longus florifer, fructifer vero ad 6 mm, ad basin fere divisus in 5 lobos acutos lanceolatos, eminenter uninervos, glabros, anguste marginatos. *Corolla* pallide purpurea, ad medium petalorum ornata lineis fusce purpureis, campanulata, persistens, 9 mm longa, sub fructu vero ad 14 mm longa, glabra, divisa fere ad basin in 5 lobos contortes, acutos. *Stamina* 5 tubo brevi fixa, inclusa ; filamenta glabra, 4.5 mm longa, linearia, deorsum aliquantum complanata ; antherae dithecae, oblongae, versatiles. *Ovarium* glabrum, uniloculare, 7 mm longum, 2 mm latum. *Stylus* perbrevis. *Stigma* bilobum. *Capsula* sessilis, 1.5 mm longa, 4 mm lata, paulum extrusa supra corollae lobos, glabra, dividenda in duos carpellos fere usque ad medium. *Semina* plura, 0.5 mm longa, 0.35 mm lata, oblonga, polita, nonnullis punctis indistinctis ornata.

Typus, *N. C. Nair 16759 A*, et isotypi, *N. C. Nair* 16759 *B-F*, lecti ad lacum Chandratal in ditione Spiti in Punjabia ad altit. 4169 m die 8 septembris anni 1961 et positi in herbario sectionis septentrionalis Bot. Surv. Indi. ad Dehra Dun.

Gentiana spitiensis Nair spec. nov.

Annual herbs ; branches decumbent or erect upto 9.5 cm, slender, glabrous. Leaves radical and few cauline, opposite, fleshy, 4-5 mm long, 2 mm broad, oblanceolate, narrowed into a very short petiole in radical ones, cauline ones always sessile, entire, tip acute. Flowers solitary, terminal. Calyx campanulate, persistent, enlarged in fruit, 3 mm long upto enlargement, 6 mm in fruit, divided to near the base into 5 lanceolate and acute lobes, lobes prominently 1 nerved, glabrous, narrowly margined. Corolla light violet with dark purple midpetaline bands on the back, campanulate, persistent, enlarged in fruit, 9 mm upto enlargement, 14 mm in fruit, glabrous, divided to near the base into 5 lobes ; lobes twisted, acute. Stamens 5, attached to the short tube, included ; filaments, glabrous 4.5 mm long, linear, little flattened downwards ; anthers dithecous, oblong, versatile. Ovary glabrous, 1 celled, 7 mm long, 2 mm broad. Style extremely short. Stigma bilobed. Capsule sessile 1.5 cm long, 4 mm broad, protruding a little above the tip of corolla lobes, glabrous, separating into two carpels to a little more than the middle. Seeds many, 0.5 mm long, 0.35 mm broad, oblong, smooth with few indistinct dots.



Figs. 1-7. *Gentiana spitiensis* Nair spec. nov.
1. Entire plant. 2. Calyx. 3. Corolla. 4. Single stamen. 5. Ovary. 6. Fruit showing dehiscence. 7. Seed.

The type of the new species has been collected at Chandratal lake area, Spiti, in Punjab state at an altitude of 4169 meters on September 8, 1961 by *N. C. Nair* and has been deposited in the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Northern Circle, Dehra Dun under the number *N. C. Nair* 16759 A. The isotypes *N. C. Nair* 16759 B-F are preserved in the same herbarium.

This species belongs to the section Otophora Kuznezow in Act. Hort. Petrop. 15: 246, 1898 and has close affinities with the Chinese species *G. decorata* Diels in Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinb. 5: 220, 1912 but differs in the larger size of the plant, leaf narrowly margined and not papillose, shorter calyx tube, and corolla divided almost to the base into five lobes.

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